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FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE
2430 E Street, NW
Washington 25, D.C.

13 December 1948

Mr. Charles W. Thayer
Chief, International Broadcasting Division
224 West 57th Street
New York, New York

Dear Charlie:

25X1 I have been exploring the possibility of giving you the 16-hour, 5-day wire service which [] reports you now need. The main consideration is that we will have to have two more editors on the job to extend the wire throughout the midnight shift. I think we can get them, but I should like to have your formal request for the extension of service to support my bid for an increase in T/O. Please send me a letter on it as soon as possible. If you can estimate now the date when you expect to require 24-hour, 7-day service, the same letter might well include that request.

Since it will require several months, to get the personnel cleared and on duty after receiving approval for hiring them, I have thought that we might try to give you some additional - if makeshift - service with the present staff. If it would be of help to you, the man we now have on midnight duty could open the wire at 0600 instead of the present 0830 in order to make time for a larger total day's file and reduce the amount of copy backlogged during the day.

I understand that your Washington communications center is not manned before 0800. I suggest, therefore, that if you want us to go ahead with the earlier wire you lease a new circuit independent of the communications center, except for a drop copy there, to operate 0600-1630. The circuit hours could be extended to 0030-1630 upon our getting the additional staff. Meantime, if our wire room had authority to reopen the circuit at night and over weekends, there would be no delay or difficulty in transmitting flash material to New York in off hours, and the need to install a TWX here would be obviated. The two and one-half hour extension can be made whenever your circuit is ready.

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Mr. Charles Thayer

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We readily understand your eagerness to get material from London with greater speed and we are exploring the possibility of obtaining instantaneous communications with London. Even with instantaneous communications, however, we can see no possible way to supply you with material monitored by the BBC, upon which we must depend for a large segment of our European coverage, with sufficient speed to permit you to base a broadcast on that same material as fast as they do. I have observed their operation and the speed with which such information is relayed to Broadcasting House cannot be matched by us from this distance. With instantaneous communications we could, of course, minimize this delay. If you could supply us with some strong justification for being able to get your broadcast out as fast as BBC does, I would greatly appreciate it.

Sincerely,

L. K. White

PKE:jg:LKW:hmq

cc: Central Files

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